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SPECIAL DAY PAGEANTS

KENNEDY *AND* BEMIS

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Special day pageants for
for little people
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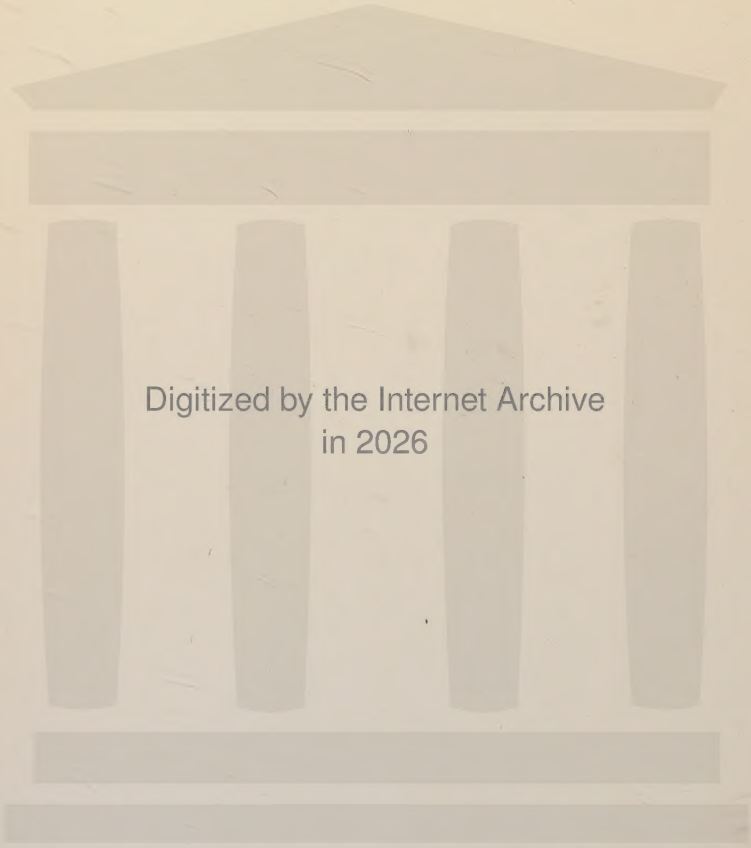
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Pageants with a Purpose

Linwood Taft, Ph.D., Editor

Special Day Pageants

For Little People

BY

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

It is with great pleasure and with a sense of service that we offer these little pageants to primary teachers for the various special days generally observed in the schools throughout the country.

On the *teachers* devolve the duty and the necessity of providing appropriate material with which to commemorate these many occasions. To somewhat meet the dearth of material in the field of *little* pageants for *primary* children, this volume has been prepared and is offered to *primary* teachers.

Concerning the pageants and their use, we wish to emphasize several outstanding features:

1. Each pageant is based on educational and psychological principles. Each develops a *theme* and drives home a subtle and sustained lesson that cannot fail to impress itself on the children's minds.

2. These pageants have been written and are especially adapted for the use of children from the *first* to the *fourth* grades inclusive. In subject matter and in manner of presentation, they are easily within the comprehension and ability of little *first-graders*, yet not too simple for fourth-grade children.

3. Sufficient latitude is permitted in the number taking part. While the plays are planned for large numbers of children, any one of them can be carried out equally well by a small group.

4. The costumes used are very simple and easily made. We suggest paper *bands* rather than *caps*, where these can be used, because they are quickly made and are very inexpensive yet effective. If a very simple presentation is desired, costumes may be eliminated altogether.

5. The rhymes used in many of the pageants may be used as single recitations. Teachers can easily adapt their use to the purpose desired.

We earnestly trust that this volume, "Special Day Pageants for Little People," will fill a real need for primary teachers and to this end we offer it for their use.

MARION KENNEDY
KATHARINE I. BEMIS

January, 1927

NEW YEAR'S DAY

The Old Year is represented by a boy dressed as an old man carrying a cane.

New Year is a tiny child dressed in a white suit and cap. He wears a white scarf thrown loosely about the throat. Tiny bells that tinkle as he moves are sewed to cap and scarf.

Twelve little girls represent the twelve months.

January is dressed in white, trimmed with silver tinsel to represent icicles. She wears a white paper crown trimmed with tinsel.

February wears a white dress on which are pinned many small red hearts. One red heart is fastened to the front of the white paper band around the head.

March wears a white dress on which are pinned many paper shamrock leaves. These should be as large as the hearts worn by *February*. She has one leaf pinned to the front of the white paper headband.

April wears a bright-colored raincoat and hat and carries a pretty umbrella.

May is dressed in white or any dainty color and carries a basket of flowers. She wears a wreath of flowers around her head.

June is dressed in white and wears a wreath of paper roses. She carries one long-stemmed rose or a bunch of roses.

July is dressed in white with a cap and sash of red, white, and blue. The sash is pinned to right shoulder and tied at left side of waist. She carries a silk flag.

August wears a bright-colored bathing suit and cap.

September is dressed in a warm shade of brown. She wears a wreath of autumn leaves and carries a basket of fruit.

October wears a dress and cap of orange and black. Her eyes are covered with a tiny mask cut from black paper. She carries a horn with black and orange streamers.

November wears a plain gray dress with Puritan cap, collar and cuffs.

December wears a white dress. She has a sprig of holly pinned to the front of the white band which she wears around her forehead. (Careful in pinning to avoid scratching.) She carries a tiny Christmas tree.

The other children represent the people. They carry horns, bells, and bright-colored handkerchiefs.

Enter people running, ringing bells, blowing horns and waving handkerchiefs. They arrange themselves informally at rear of stage.

Enter *Old Year*, moving slowly to center of stage, leaning heavily on cane.

OLD YEAR

I must not long remain,
New Year approaches with his train,
My months have gone, *December* last,
My strength is failing very fast.
My people, I meant well by you,
I brought some joy, some sorrow too,
What came to you was fate's decree,
Pray do not think too hard of me.
Farewell, my people, dear,
I now make way for the *New Year*.

(Moves slowly off stage on side opposite to that by which he entered.)

PEOPLE

(Watching him go and waving handkerchiefs.)
Good-bye, *Old Year*, good-bye!

FIRST CHILD

The *New Year's* drawing nigh.

(People turn to look in opposite direction, wave handkerchiefs, blow horns and ring bells as *New Year* enters.)

SECOND CHILD

Welcome, welcome, year so new,
Bring your months into our view.

NEW YEAR (Enter *Months*)

Here they are, twelve months in all,
On their deeds, I stand or fall.
May each bring to you good cheer,
That I may be a happy year.

(People move forward, some on either side of stage, to get a better view of the months. They must remain near sides, being careful not to stand in front of *New Year* and the *Months*.)

FIRST CHILD
January, pray be bright.

SECOND CHILD
February, do the right.

THIRD CHILD
Blustering *March*, be good.

FOURTH CHILD
April, treat us as you should.

FIFTH CHILD
May we have a happy *May*.

SIXTH CHILD
And may *June* be bright and gay.

SEVENTH CHILD
July, we're hoping much from you.

EIGHTH CHILD
August, do your duty, too.

NINTH CHILD
September, be good and true.

TENTH CHILD
October, may your skies be blue.

ELEVENTH CHILD
November, be not cold and drear.

TWELFTH CHILD
December, bring to us good cheer.

THIRTEENTH CHILD
All your months look gay and bright,
They will surely treat us right.

FOURTEENTH CHILD
We shall have a joyous year,
Full of happiness and cheer.

People run off stage, waving handkerchiefs, ringing bells and blowing horns.

When the last child has disappeared, the *Months*, led by *New Year*, march off stage to music.

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

CHARACTERS:

Group of Children wearing bands of red, white, and blue (described in Armistice Day pageant). They carry flags of uniform size.

Group of Soldiers wearing blue suits and blue paper soldier caps and carrying toy guns.

Group of Soldiers wearing gray suits and gray paper soldier caps and carrying paper guns.

Children enter to music and stand in rows near rear of stage.

FIRST CHILD

Today we celebrate the birth
Of our country's martyred son,
Who, from sad ruin, saved our land,
Brave Abraham Lincoln.

SECOND CHILD

When the Union trembled fearfully,
And all indeed seemed lost,
Which Washington and his brave men
Had gained at such a cost,

THIRD CHILD

Then mighty Lincoln took the helm
And, armed with courage great,
Through troubled seas of Civil War
He steered the Ship of State,

FOURTH CHILD

When brave men, wearing blue or gray,
Each praying hard to win,
So sadly into battle marched
Against their next of kin.

(Soldiers in blue enter by twos from left, those in gray from right, each led by a boy beating a drum in time to the march being played.)

They pass to center of stage and stand in two rows, drummer boys in front.

FIFTH CHILD

At last the awful war had ceased,
The Union cause prevailed,
As "saviour of his country," then
Was Abraham Lincoln hailed.

SIXTH CHILD

Today we celebrate his birth,
And we now pledge anew
Allegiance to the flag he loved
The red and white and blue.

(All salute flag. A march is played.)

Drummer boys step to center and lead soldiers. Soldiers turn to center, meet at center, and march in front, separate and march in twos to point of first meeting.

Two soldiers in gray fall in behind two in blue. These are followed by two others in blue, etc.

They march in this order (the blue and gray alternating) to front of stage. Partners separate and all march in single file to point of first meeting. Here the first soldier in blue drops back and allows each soldier in blue to take as his partner one in gray. He drops back into line with the last soldier in gray. They march to front, first couple turns to right, second to left, third to right, etc. All march to point of entrance and off. All through the drill, the drummer boys are leading the lines. Children march off.

VALENTINE DAY

Any number of children may take part. Boys wear white suits or white waists. Girls wear white dresses or white middies.

All have several red paper hearts pinned on dresses and suits. Each wears tagboard band around head. A red paper heart is pinned to front of band.

Each holds large red paper heart behind his back.

All march onto stage to music, girls enter from right, boys from left, meet at center, march in pairs to front, separate, march around stage and meet again at center of back of stage and march again to front. Repeat two or three times then form in rows on stage, the smallest children in front.

FIRST CHILD (mysteriously)
I've a secret.

SECOND CHILD
So have I.

THIRD CHILD
And I.

FOURTH CHILD
And I.

FIRST CHILD
It's wonderful!

SECOND CHILD
Oh, my!

THIRD CHILD
Oh, my!

FOURTH CHILD
Oh, my!

FIRST CHILD
I made it for you.

SECOND CHILD
I did, too.

THIRD CHILD
I, too.

FOURTH CHILD
I, too.
(All peek behind them.)

FIRST CHILD
I'm afraid I'll tell.
(All put fingers to lips.)

SECOND CHILD
I can't keep a secret very well.

FIRST CHILD
Do you want to see?

(All show hearts an instant then quickly hide them again.)

SECOND CHILD
To see?

THIRD CHILD
To see?

FOURTH CHILD
To see?

FIRST CHILD
Then just look at me.

SECOND CHILD
And me.

THIRD CHILD
And me.

FOURTH CHILD
And me.

(All hold hearts high above heads.)
Take partners and still holding hearts high above heads, skip several times around stage and off.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

Children are divided into four groups according to height.

The tallest carry flags of uniform size. The second group carry red paper hatchets, the third white hatchets, and the fourth blue hatchets.

Children enter to music, marching across stage four abreast if possible. If this is impossible, two groups may enter from each side at the same time. They form in four lines across stage, the tallest at the rear, the shortest in front.

If the hatchets do not show up well, the children in front row may sit on floor and those in second line may stoop. The speakers may remain in line while speaking.

FIRST CHILD

In seventeen hundred thirty-two
This very month and day
In the state of old Virginia
A little baby lay.

SECOND CHILD

His loving parents named him George,
George Washington.
And they were very proud indeed,
To have an infant son.

THIRD CHILD

He was a splendid, sturdy lad
Truthful as could be,
Of course you've heard the story
Of the cherry tree.

FOURTH CHILD

This splendid boy became a splendid man,
Fearless, strong and true;
He was always first where there
Was any work to do.

FIFTH CHILD

As commander-in-chief he bravely led
To glorious victory,
That noble band of patriots,
Who set our nation free.

SIXTH CHILD

He planned the first flag of our land,
With its blue field of stars,
And the glorious red and white
Of its thirteen bars.

SEVENTH CHILD

And as her president he served
His native country well;
What he suffered for her sake,
No one can ever tell.

EIGHTH CHILD

His last years were spent at Mt. Vernon
His joy and pride;
There, mourned by a grateful nation,
George Washington died.

NINTH CHILD

The Father of his country, great
Illustrious one,
First in war and first in peace,
Was Washington.

ALL

First in the hearts of his countrymen,
America's favorite son,
All honor to the memory
Of George Washington.

(Turn and march off stage to music, four abreast or two lines to right and two to left.)

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Girls wear white middies and boys white waists. All wear green ties which may be made of crepe paper. All wear white bands around heads. On the front of each band is pinned a large shamrock leaf of same shade as the ties. Each carries a pointer, covered with green paper to which are fastened three green streamers eighteen inches long.

Children march in to music, boys from right and girls from left. The leaders meet as partners at center of stage near rear and facing each other about three feet apart, form an arch with pointers. Next boy and girl pass under arch and form a second arch directly in front of first. This is repeated until all are forming arches. The two at rear then lower pointers and holding them low move under arches followed by the others. As each couple reaches front, they separate, move in opposite directions to sides of stage and around to point of first meeting, again forming arches. Repeat as often as desired, then form in lines across stage.

If preferred, a more elaborate drill may be used. Hoops bound with green may be used instead of pointers.

ONE CHILD

Today we meet to celebrate
The good St. Patrick's Day,
'Tis said he drove all toads and snakes
From Ireland's shores away.

Though none believe this foolish tale,
We know full well that he
From north to south, and east to west,
Spread Christianity.

First carried to that little isle
The slave of pagan king,
When grown and free, willed to return
The gospel call to bring.

He founded missions everywhere,
And schools of learning, too,
Apostle of the Emerald Isle,
We wear the green for you.

(All turn, facing center, meet partners, repeat drill and march off.)

ARBOR DAY

This pageant is planned to include any number of children. One group represents trees and another group represents fairies. There are as many fairies as there are trees. The larger children take the part of trees.

The children representing trees carry branches. Some carry branches of pussy willows, others carry evergreen boughs, while still others carry flowering branches covered with small leaves or buds.

If these are not available, bare branches on which paper leaves and flowers are tied are quite as pretty.

The fairies are dressed in white. The boys wear green pointed caps made of paper. The girls wear paper bands around heads. To the front of these bands are pinned gold or silver paper stars. They carry wands, with gold or silver paper stars fastened to sticks with paper of same color.

Curtain rises on trees scattered informally about stage.

Fairies skip in to music, skip in and out among trees and then stand, each fairy under the branch of a tree.

FIRST FAIRY

Just woodland fairies small are we,
Our homes are in the trees,
We love to swing upon their boughs
With every passing breeze.

SECOND FAIRY

At midnight, underneath our trees
We like to dance and play,
And, hidden snugly in their trunks,
We rest and sleep by day.

THIRD FAIRY

The trees which are such friends to us,
Are very good to you,
They furnish many kinds of food,
And give us shelter, too.

FOURTH FAIRY

(Holds up large red apple.)
This pretty apple so round and so red,
Grew up in a tree high over my head.

FIFTH FAIRY

(Holds up large banana.)
This yellow banana, so ripe and so sweet,
That grew on a tree is really a treat.

SIXTH FAIRY

(Holds up an orange and a lemon.)
This golden orange and this lemon, too,
In the sunny South on tall trees grew.

SEVENTH FAIRY

(Holds up small cake of maple sugar.)
This maple sugar was made from the sap
Of a large maple tree that the farmer boys tap.

EIGHTH FAIRY

(Shows basket of nuts.)
These pretty nuts, so smooth and so brown,
From a big tall tree came tumbling down.

NINTH FAIRY

(Holds up a grapefruit.)
This grapefruit, too, grew up on a tree,
It is just as good as it can be.

TENTH FAIRY

Then love the trees and plant more trees
On every Arbor Day;
Oh, treat them kindly, watch them grow,
Shield them in every way.

(Fairies again skip in and out among trees and off the stage.)

CURTAIN

BIRD DAY

CHARACTERS:

A *Group of Children* (the best singers are selected for this group).

Several *Thrushes, Robins, Woodpeckers, Bluejays, Orioles, Chickadees, Wrens, Bluebirds.*

COSTUMES:

Children are dressed in white with crepe paper bands of various harmonizing colors or any pretty bright colors.

Thrushes wear light brown with dark brown wings. (Wings may be represented by a width of crepe paper about four feet in length. This is plaited in the center and pinned to waist between shoulders. The ends are fastened at tops to wrists. The lower edges are allowed to drop naturally. As child moves arms up and down to represent flying, wings fold and unfold very prettily.)

Robins wear brown with reddish brown bibs, black caps and brown wings.

Woodpeckers wear white with red caps and black wings.

Orioles wear orange with black caps and wings.

Bluejays wear blue with black ties and blue caps and wings. (*Bluejays* should be represented by the largest children.)

Chickadees wear buff-colored suits or dresses with black caps and ashy gray wings.

Wrens wear brown with brown wings.

Bluebirds wear blue with reddish brown bibs and blue wings.

Children march in to music.

FIRST CHILD

Just at dawn in early spring,
All the birds begin to sing,
They are such a happy throng,
All the world seems full of song.

Perched on leafy bush or tree,
Bursting into melody,
Soft and sweet and clear, but hush,
Listen to the merry thrush.

(Enter *Thrushes* skipping on toes and waving arms to represent flying.)

THRUSHES (in concert)
We're here! We're here! We're here!
With call so sweet and clear.

Children sing "The Thrush," p. 41, Songs About Birds, by Wells and Smeltzer, A. W. Mumford, publishers.)

SECOND CHILD
Pretty robins sing their best
Sing about a pretty nest.

(*Robins* enter, flying.)

ROBINS (in concert)
Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up!
We're looking for a tree.

(Children sing "The Robin," p. 7, Songs About Birds.)

THIRD CHILD
Gay woodpecker from his tree,
Casts a saucy glance at me.

(*Woodpeckers* enter, flying.)

WOODPECKERS (in concert)
A rap-a-tap-a-tap!
A tap-a-rap-a-rap!

(Children sing "The Red-Headed Woodpecker," p. 26, Songs About Birds.)

FOURTH CHILD
Brilliant oriole, on the wing,
Sings as only he can sing.

(*Orioles* enter, flying.)

ORIOLES (in concert)
We fly! We fly! We fly!
Our nest is very high.

(Children sing "The Oriole," p. 13, Songs About Birds.)

FIFTH CHILD

Here comes pretty saucy jay,
Driving other birds away.

(Enter *Bluejays,* flying. All other birds move back a step or two.)

BLUEJAYS (in concert)

Hear us! Hear us! Hear us!
We love to scold and fuss.

(Children sing "The Bluejay," p. 29, Songs About Birds.)

SIXTH CHILD

Fluffy fellows now I see,
Chickadees from the evergreen tree.

(*Chickadees* enter, flying.)

CHICKADEES (in concert)

Chick a dee! Chick a dee! Chick a dee!
Brave little birds are we.

(Children sing "Chickadee," p. 35, Songs About Birds.)

SEVENTH CHILD

Dressed in feathers brown and plain,
Little wrens join the refrain.

(Enter *Wrens,* flying.)

WRENS (in concert)

Go way! Go way! Go way!
For we must have our say.

(Children sing "The House Wren," p. 15, Songs About Birds.)

EIGHTH CHILD

Just a flash of brightest blue,
Bluebird joins the chorus, too.

(Enter *Bluebirds,* flying.)

BLUEBIRDS (in concert)

We sing! We sing! We sing!
We love the happy spring.

(Children sing "The Bluebird," p. 9, Songs About Birds.)

NINTH CHILD

When the sun has risen high,
Off to breakfast they all fly.

(Birds fly several times around stage and off.)

MOTHER'S DAY

Any number of children may take part. Girls wear white middies and boys white waists. All wear red ties. Each child carries a red carnation. The ties may be made of crepe paper and should be of the same shade of red as the carnations.

Children enter to music, boys from right side and girls from left, meet at center of stage and march around stage, partners separating and meeting again twice. They then arrange themselves in rows in a semi-circle.

ONE CHILD

She is the very best mother,
  Splendid and fine,
The kindest, gentlest mother
  And she is mine.

She is always the same dear mother
  Through storm and shine,
The sweetest, most patient mother,
  And she is mine.

I'll try to deserve my dear mother
  So gentle and fine,
I'll try to be more and more like her,
  For she is mine.

All sing to tune of "Song of the Seasons," page 5 in the Song Primer by Alys E. Bentley, A. S. Barnes & Co., Publishers.

Sing a song of mother,
  Gentle, sweet and fine,
Never was a mother
  Quite as dear as mine.

All turn and move to center of stage, meet partners, march to front, separate and march around stage, meeting partners and separating again twice, then off the stage, boys to the right and girls to the left.

MEMORIAL DAY

America, Boy with flag, *Group of Soldiers, Red Cross Nurses,* and *Group of Tiny Children* are the characters.

Any number of children may take part.

Enter *Boy* dressed in white carrying a large silk flag. He stands on box at rear of stage in exact center.

Enter *America,* a girl dressed in white, wearing gold paper crown and carrying gold paper star on pointer covered with gold paper. She stands beneath the flag.

Soldiers, wearing paper soldier caps and carrying guns enter to music, march twice around the stage, and arrange themselves in a semicircle at *America's* right.

Nurses, wearing nurses' caps of white tissue paper with red paper crosses pasted on front, enter to music, march twice around the stage, and arrange themselves in a semicircle at the left of *America.*

Enter *Tiny Children* carrying large bunches of flowers or basket of flowers, and stand in front of *Soldiers* and *Nurses.*

SOLDIERS

America, we are your soldiers,
Loyal, brave and true,
And we will always follow
The red and white and blue.

NURSES

America, we are your nurses,
Loyal, one and all,
Ready when you need us
To answer to your call.

CHILDREN

America, we are your children,
We honor your soldiers dead,
O'er their lonely graves today,
Our brightest flowers we'll spread.

All march twice around stage and off. *America* and *Boy* with flag remain standing, during the marching, then leave stage together.

FATHER'S DAY

Any number of children may take part.

A group of small boys carrying balloons, run in to appropriate music, run around the stage three or four times and sit upon the floor of stage near front.

A group of little girls in white run in and stand behind the boys.

FIRST GROUP BOYS
We've come from the finest banquet!

SECOND GROUP BOYS
So have we!

THIRD GROUP BOYS
So have we!

FOURTH GROUP BOYS
So have we!

FIRST GROUP BOYS
Oh, my, it was a great banquet!

SECOND GROUP BOYS
And just see!

THIRD GROUP BOYS
Oh, just see!

FOURTH GROUP BOYS
Oh, just see!

FIRST GROUP BOYS
These pretty balloons were the favors!

SECOND GROUP BOYS
It was fun!

THIRD GROUP BOYS
Oh, such fun!

FOURTH GROUP BOYS
Lots of fun!

FIRST BOY (alone)
I'm so glad that daddy's *my* daddy!

SECOND BOY
I'm his son!

THIRD BOY
I'm his son!

FOURTH BOY
I'm his son!

FIRST BOY
He's just the very best daddy!

SECOND BOY
He's so good!

THIRD BOY
Just so good!

FOURTH BOY
Oh, so good!

FIRST BOY
I wouldn't trade for another —

SECOND BOY
If I could —

THIRD BOY
If I could —

FOURTH BOY
If I could!

TINY GIRL
My daddy's the very best daddy
You ever knew,
He's such a big, brave daddy
And strong and true.

He's such a splendid daddy
So kind and good,
I'll try to be good for daddy
Just as I should.

ALL
Let's all try to please our daddies,
And do just what they say,
'Cause we dearly love our daddies,
And this is Father's Day.

All run off to appropriate music.

FLAG DAY

Children may be dressed in white and wear bands of red, white, and blue crepe paper on heads. White middies for girls and white waists for boys are effective if convenient, otherwise, dresses and suits will do nicely.

Children enter by twos to music. They are led by largest boy who carries a large silken flag with eagle on staff. (A pasteboard eagle covered with gilt paper will serve the purpose.)

After marching two or three times around the stage, children arrange themselves in rows in a semicircle on stage. Boy with flag takes position behind the group, holding flag above their heads. (Boy stands on box.)

ALL (Sing any flag song)

FIRST CHILD

Emblem of our country dear
The red and white and blue,
Glorious flag of freedom's land,
We are here to honor you.

SECOND CHILD

Banner of our native land,
The blue and white and red,
Victory has followed soon,
Wherever you have led.

THIRD CHILD

Fairest flag of any land
With stars and stripes so bright,
Proudly we salute you now
The red and blue and white.

Boy carrying flag moves to front. All salute the flag, (I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation indivisible with liberty and justice for all), then sing one stanza of "Star Spangled Banner."

Boy with flag leads as all march twice around stage. He halts while others march off, then follows.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

A little girl represents *America.* She wears a long flowing robe of white and a crown made of pasteboard, which may be covered with gilt paint or gold paper. She carries a gold star to match the crown. The star is fastened to a gold-covered or painted pointer.

The other children wear white dresses and suits or white middies and waists. Some carry flags, others carry streamers. (Half of the streamers are made by pinning or tying gold and silver papers, one and a half inches wide and two feet long, to pointers or other sticks. The other half are made in the same way of red, white, and blue crepe paper. Streamers are easily fastened to pointers with rubber binders.)

America enters to music followed by a boy with flag. She takes position in center of stage. Boy with flag stands behind her a little to the left and holds flag over her head.

Other children enter in pairs, march several times around *America,* then arrange themselves in a semicircle with *America* in center.

ONE CHILD

Hail, America, noble and free,
Hail, America, hail to thee
On this thy natal day!
Tribute we would pay
To thee our native land
Glorious and grand.
The day that gave thee birth
Brought liberty to earth;
Great Republic free
Hail, hail to thee.

(All sing first and second stanzas of "America.")

March twice around *America* and off. *America* and flag-bearer follow.

LABOR DAY

Any number may take part.

Carpenters and *Masons* wear aprons and carry tools of trade.

Butchers wear white aprons and carry knives.

Bakers wear white caps and aprons.

Musicians wear bright colored bands of crepe paper on heads with narrow strips decorating suits to represent band uniforms. They carry musical instruments.

Entertainers wear clown suits.

Miners wear bright glittering buttons or circles of silver paper on forehead to represent lamps.

Woodcutters carry toy or pasteboard axes.

Policemen wear blue suits and caps and carry clubs.

Soldiers wear paper caps and carry guns.

Some carry flags and banners with appropriate slogans.

Suggestive slogans:

Work and be happy.
Labor brings contentment.
Work and save.
Work and prosper.
Work while you work.

All enter by twos or in small groups and arrange themselves informally upon the stage.

Enter *Marshal of the Day*, a dignified appearing boy wearing band with *Marshal* in large type on his cap, and carrying a staff.

MARSHAL

Who will join the grand parade
This Labor Day?

ALL

We will, sir, we will march,
If we may.

(All rush forward.)

MARSHAL (raising hand)
Hold! Hold! Not so fast, I pray,
Tell me true
Why should the honor of marching
Fall to you?

BAKERS and BUTCHERS
We bakers and butchers
Toil to give
Food to the people of all nations,
That they may live.

MASONS and CARPENTERS
We masons and carpenters
With stone and wood
Build for the people of all countries
Homes strong and good.

MINERS and WOODCUTTERS
We miners and woodcutters
Toil day and night
To keep the homes of many lands
Warm and bright.

POLICEMEN and SOLDIERS
We policemen and soldiers
Have our work;
We protect the homes of every land,
We do not shirk.

CLOWNS and MUSICIANS
We entertainers and musicians
Are toilers, too;
We furnish fun and pleasure to others who
Have work to do.

MARSHAL
Faithful toilers all, I welcome you
With all my heart.
You have earned the honor of marching,
Now do your part.

All drop into line and march two or three times around stage or room with the *Marshal* leading.

CONSTITUTION DAY

CHARACTERS:

Uncle Sam, wearing a suit of red, white, and blue and a high hat of same colors.

Boy with furled flag.

Group of American Children.

Group (same number) *of Immigrant Children.*

A few of the American children are dressed to represent Indians and a few also have faces and hands blackened with burnt cork to represent negroes. All wear tiny American flags. One child carries a basket of these tiny flags.

The immigrants are in six groups dressed to represent *Dutch*, *Swedish*, *German*, *Spanish*, *Italian*, and *Russian* children.

Enter to music *American Children*, marching in pairs and led by *Uncle Sam.*

They are followed by *Boy* with flag who stands in an inconspicuous place.

Uncle Sam and children march several times around stage, then stand in informal groups, *Uncle Sam* in front.

(Enter *Dutch* Children.)

ONE DUTCH CHILD

Just little Dutch boys and girls are we,
To live with you, we crossed the sea.

UNCLE SAM

You are welcome, welcome, children dear,
We are glad to have you here.

CHILD with flags

Wear now our flag, red and white and blue.

(Gives each *Dutch* child a flag.)

DUTCH CHILDREN

To these bright colors we'll be true.

(Pin on flags.)

(Enter *Swedish* Children.)

ONE SWEDISH CHILD
From Sweden's shores we sailed away,
To this fair land we've come to stay.

UNCLE SAM
We're glad you came with us to dwell,
Live here in peace, we'll treat you well.

CHILD with flags
Wear this, our flag, by none surpassed.

(Gives each *Swedish* child a flag.)

SWEDISH CHILDREN
We'll cherish it while life shall last.

(Pin on flags.)

(Enter *German* Children.)

ONE GERMAN CHILD
We have left our German soil,
To share your fortunes and your toil.

UNCLE SAM
You're welcome, too, with us abide,
We'll work together, side by side.

CHILD with flags
Will you wear our flag so bright?
(Gives each *German* child a flag.)

GERMAN CHILDREN
We love the red and blue and white.

(Pin on flags.)

(Enter *Spanish* Children.)

ONE SPANISH CHILD
We have come from sunny Spain
In your America to remain.

UNCLE SAM
We're glad to share with you our wealth,
We wish you happiness and health.

CHILD with flags
This emblem of our country wear.

(Gives each a flag.)

SPANISH CHILDREN
And for its sake we'll do and dare.

(Pin on flags.)

(Enter *Italian* Children.)

ONE ITALIAN CHILD
Italian skies we've left behind,
In this, your land, new homes to find.

UNCLE SAM
Dear children all, from ancient Rome,
We welcome you to your new home.

CHILD with flags
Our colors wear, red, blue, and white.

(Gives each a flag.)

ITALIAN CHILDREN
All honor to these colors bright.

(Pin on flags.)

(Enter *Russian* Children.)

ONE RUSSIAN CHILD
In free America to dwell
We bade our Russian homes farewell.

UNCLE SAM
A peaceful home to you we give,
In happiness, long may you live.

CHILD with flags
Then wear our country's banner dear.

(Gives each a flag.)

RUSSIAN CHILDREN
We'll guard it well, you need not fear.

(Pin on flags.)

UNCLE SAM
(Turning to *American* Children.)

On you, my children, I depend,
These brothers you must now defend;
To them extend a helping hand
And bid them welcome to our land.

(Each *American* child steps over to an *Immigrant* child and shakes hands with him.)

UNCLE SAM
Unfurl the banner of the free
Unfurl the flag of liberty.

(*Boy* unfurls flag.)

Adopted child and native son,
America's children, every one,
Salute your country's banner bright,
Salute the flag red, blue, and white.

(All salute flag.)

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

Each *American* child takes an *Immigrant* child as a partner and all form in line. To music, they march several times around stage, then off, followed by *Uncle Sam* and *Boy* with flag.

COLUMBUS DAY

FIRST RETURN TO SPAIN

CHARACTERS:

Columbus
King Ferdinand
Queen Isabelle
Noblemen
Ladies
Sailors
Attendants
Natives

COSTUMES:

Columbus wears bright colored bloomers and a paper cape and ruff. He carries in his hand a hat with plume.

(An imitation plume may be made of newspaper six by twenty-four inches. Paper may be colored on both sides. A pretty effect is obtained by using contrasting colors on the two sides of the same paper. For black and white plumes paper is not colored. Fold paper lengthwise in center, cut a fine fringe on crease leaving a half-inch margin. Turn [otherwise plume will not be fluffy] and roll on margin. This makes a plume about eight inches long. If a longer one is desired, two can be fastened together.)

Noblemen, *Attendants* and *Sailors* dress like *Columbus* but in colors less bright.

King Ferdinand and *Queen Isabelle* wear long purple cambric capes, trimmed down the front and around bottom with white wadding on which is pinned small bits of black cloth or paper to represent ermine. They wear gold paper crowns.

Natives are dressed as American Indians. They wear bright colored blankets, which may be of crepe paper, and headdresses of feathers. (Tagboard bands to which are fastened bright colored quills cut from stiff paper make very satisfactory headdresses.)

Ladies wear ruffs and full skirts.

Curtain rises on *Ferdinand* and *Isabelle* seated on throne.

(Two chairs, placed on elevated platform and covered with robe will serve as throne.)

Ladies and *Noblemen* are seated or standing in informal groups.

Attendants stand near throne. They hold pasteboard bugles with long streamers.

KING
Many, many months have passed,
Since we saw Columbus last.

QUEEN
Any day he may return,
Then of his travels we shall learn.

KING
He has sailed to a distant shore,
We shall see him never more.

QUEEN
Oh, my lord, pray not so,
He'll return to us, I know.

KING
Your jewels are gone, the money, too,
Such a foolish queen are you.

QUEEN
I believe his theory sound,
The world's not flat, but round.

KING
Such nonsense is past belief,
He is but a common thief.

VOICES (shouting outside)
Columbus now is back again!
Columbus has returned to Spain!

ATTENDANT (enters and kneels)
Columbus now appears in court,
On his journey to report.

QUEEN
Oh, my lord, 'tis as I thought,
Treasure great, to Spain he's brought.

KING
Before us now let him appear,
His strange story shall we hear.

(Enter *Columbus* with *Natives*. Kneels.)

KING
Rise, Columbus, tell us true,
All that did befall to you.

COLUMBUS (rises)
Our journey west was long and drear,
My men were weak with dread and fear.

We landed one October day
On India's shore so far away.

I unfurled the flag of Spain
And took possession for your gain.

The *Santa Maria* was lost at sea,
The *Pinta's* crew deserted me.

The *Nina* was far too small
To carry back my sailors all.

So forty sailors did remain
To found a colony for Spain.

That you may know that I speak true,
These natives I brought back to you.

KING
Columbus, truly you've done well,
I thank you and Isabelle.

Go rest you now, your troubles o'er,
Tomorrow you shall tell us more.

CURTAIN

ROOSEVELT DAY

Any number of children carrying flags of red, white, and blue streamers enter from either side, marching to music. They meet at center of stage, march to front, separate and march back to point of entrance, repeat once or twice, then arrange themselves in one or more rows at back of stage.

Seventeen children, carrying the letters forming Theodore Roosevelt's name on rulers or sticks, enter, march several times around stage, and stand in one row in front of the former group.

Seven tiny children enter, march several times around the stage and form in line in front of the second group. These seven children are the speakers.

First Child

When Theodore Roosevelt was a boy,
To work and study was his joy.

Second Child

As a man he did not shirk,
But faithfully he did his work.

Third Child

He was a soldier, strong and brave,
And fought his native land to save.

Fourth Child

As President with all his might,
Roosevelt worked for what was right.

Fifth Child

He gave his sons to his country, too,
They were soldiers, brave and true.

Sixth Child

When I grow to be a man,
I'll be like Roosevelt if I can.

SEVENTH CHILD
Strong and brave and good and true,
A real American through and through.

ALL
Theodore Roosevelt,
To his memory we'll be true,
We will always follow
The red and white and blue.

First row marches twice around stage and off. Second row marches two or three times around stage and off. Children carrying flags turn — those at right of center turn to left, and those at left of center turn to right — meet partners at center of stage, march to front, separate and march to rear of stage, meet again, repeat two or three times and march off.

HALLOWE'EN

Any number of children may take part. After selecting one girl to speak alone and from three to six boys for clowns, the other children may be divided into groups; namely, *Jack O'Lanterns, Witches, Jolly Boys, Black Cats, Funny Chaps, Ghosts, Brownies* and *Dainty Maidens.*

Clowns wear clown suits.

Witches wear black dresses with tall pointed hats, and carry brooms.

Jack O'Lanterns wear paper bags colored with orange crayon, with eyes, noses and mouths cut out. These bags are drawn over the heads.

One group of boys wear false faces and paper caps. The other group carry horns and bells.

Brownies wear pointed brown paper caps with tiny bells tied on.

Ghosts are draped in sheets.

Black Cats wear large cat faces made of black paper.

Dainty Maidens wear dresses made of yellow or orange crepe paper, with tiny black masks, or they may dress in white. They may carry orange and black, also yellow and black streamers. One little girl may carry a tambourine.

Each group enters separately to appropriate music, *Brownies* and *Clowns* tumbling; *Jolly Boys* jostling; *Jack O'Lanterns* marching slowly with long, high steps; *Black Cats* stepping gingerly along and turning faces about; *Ghosts* walking very slowly to solemn music; *Witches* riding on brooms; *Funny Chaps* running and shouting; *Dainty Maidens* skipping along; one little girl alone, dancing to music of tambourine.

After running, tumbling, skipping or marching around stage three times, each group stands and waits while one from group speaks, then group drops into place in parade.

CLOWN

I announce a grand parade,
Noisy boy and giggling maid,
Spooky ghost and laughing Jack,
Ancient witch with cat so black,

Brownie from his home below,
Give for you a passing show.

FUNNY CHAP
We are just funny little chaps
With false faces and queer caps.

BROWNIE
We brownies like fun, too,
We'll run right along with you.

JACK O'LANTERN
We're Jack O'Lanterns out for fun,
When you see us, you'd better run.

NOISY BOY
We are just noisy little boys,
With bells and horns to make a noise.

GHOST
We are ghosts, watch out tonight
Or you'll get a dreadful fright.

WITCH
We are witches with brooms and cats,
We fly by night with owls and bats.

BLACK CAT
Mew, mew, mew, mew!
Wait for us, we're coming, too.

DAINTY MAIDEN
We're dainty maidens, gay and bright,
Out for a jolly time tonight.

LITTLE GIRL
Oh, we'll have a jolly night,
And we'll do just what is right,
Our horns we'll blow, our bells we'll ring,
But we won't harm a single thing.
We hope you like our little play,
Please come again, some other day.

(All march several times around stage and move off.)

ARMISTICE DAY

Any number of children may take part.

War, *Famine*, *Death*, *Hate*, *Armistice Day*, *Peace*, *Plenty*, *Hope*, and *Love* wear paper sashes pinned from right shoulder to left side of waist. On each sash is printed character's name in large type or pasted letters.

War is a boy wearing soldier's suit and carrying gun. He wears a gold paper crown on his head.

Famine is powdered to appear very frail and is dressed in ragged clothing.

Death is also powdered to appear very pale and wears black crepe paper draped about head and shoulders.

Armistice Day is a girl in white with silver paper crown on head.

Peace wears a white dress.

Plenty, *Hope*, and *Love* are three tiny girls wearing white dresses and gold bands with golden stars in front, about heads. *Plenty* carries a basket of fruit.

The other children wear around their heads bands of red, white, and blue crepe paper and carry streamers, flags, horns, drums and whistles. (The bands are made by cutting strips of blue paper two and a half inches wide, white paper two inches wide and red paper one and a half inches. Run fingers along edges of strips to ruffle them. Pin the strips together. The strips can be cut on paper cutter and pinned together in long strips then cut into bands as needed. The streamers are made by cutting red, white, and blue crepe paper and fastening to pointers or other sticks with rubber binders.)

Streamers may fly from drumsticks, horns, whistles, and bells.

War, *Peace*, *Armistice Day*, *Famine*, *Death*, *Hate*, *Plenty*, *Hope* and *Love* wait at back of stage. Other children enter, waving flags and streamers, beating drums, blowing whistles and horns and ringing bells and arrange themselves informally on stage.

ALL

(Waving flags and streamers.)

Armistice Day! Armistice Day!
Hurray! hurray! hurray!

Armistice Day! Armistice Day!
Hurray! hurray! hurray!

First Small Child

Armistice Day! What does it mean?
Why are the nations so glad and gay?
Why do we hear the joyful cry,
"Armistice Day"?

(Enter) War

Once I ruled the earth,
I, grim, awful *War* was King,
I brought *Famine*, *Death* and *Hate*
And every other evil thing.

(Short pause after each name as *Famine* enters and stands beside *War*, *Death* enters and stands beside *Famine*, and *Hate* enters and stands beside *Death*.)

(Enter) Armistice Day

And then I came with edict stern
"The reign of *War* must cease,
The world has had enough of war,
It shall be ruled by *Peace*."

(Removes crown from *War's* head and places it upon head of *Peace* who enters at mention of her name.)

Peace

In answer to the call I came
And drove cruel *War* away.
I bring *Plenty*, *Hope*, and *Love*,
To bless the earth today.

(Pause after mention of names, *Plenty*, *Hope*, and *Love* while each enters in turn, *Plenty* standing beside *Peace*, *Hope* beside *Plenty*, and *Love* beside *Hope*.

Second Child

And so we love to honor
With colors bright and music gay,
The day that gave us peace for war,
Armistice Day.

ALL

(Waving flags and streamers.)

Armistice Day, Armistice Day!
Hurray! hurray! hurray!
Armistice Day, Armistice Day!
Hurray! hurray! hurray!

(Exeunt, blowing horns and whistles, beating drums and ringing bells.)

RED CROSS EXERCISE

There are three groups of children in this pageant. Two groups wear tag-board bands on heads. A tiny red cross is pinned or pasted on front of each band.

(These crosses are easily made by ruling red paper into one-half inch squares, then cutting paper into one-and-a-half-inch squares, the corner squares are then cut from each small square and we have perfect crosses.)

Some of the first group of children carry banners on which are printed the Red Cross motto *"I Serve."* Others carry red crosses eight or nine inches high fastened to rulers. Still others may carry *Red Cross* posters or calendars held up on rulers. Several of the same group carry *Red Cross* banks, which may be made of pasteboard boxes on which are pasted small red crosses.

Children of second group carry small, bright colored toys.

There are girls only in the third group. They wear white dresses with red crosses pinned to front about four inches below chins. They also wear *Red Cross* caps.

(A cap may be quickly made of a sheet of ordinary tissue paper. Turn up a two-inch fold along one of the longer edges. This fold will have a crease in center on which is pasted or pinned a small red cross. Put fold around child's head pinning at back, and let paper fall naturally over fold at back.)

Children enter to music and arrange themselves in a semicircle on stage with Nurses in center.

FIRST GROUP

We are Red Cross workers
Trying every day
To earn and save some pennies
Red Cross dues to pay.

SECOND GROUP

We are filling Christmas boxes
With these pretty toys,
They'll be sent across the ocean
To poor girls and boys.

NURSES

We are always willing
Very glad indeed,
To help in any country
Whenever there is need.

ALL

May we live up to our motto
Red Cross helpers true,
May we be always ready
Red Cross work to do.

(All sing to tune of "Song of the Seasons," The Song Primer, by Alys E. Bentley, A. S. Barnes & Co.)

SONG

We are Red Cross helpers
Trying every day,
To help poor and needy
Here and far away.

(March off to music.)

THANKSGIVING

A few of the children represent *Dutch people.* They are dressed in bright colors. The boys wear full bloomers and the girls full skirts.

The others are dressed as *Pilgrims* and *Indians,* about an equal number of each.

The *Pilgrims* march onto stage to slow, solemn music and take position in informal groups.

FIRST PILGRIM

We Pilgrims lived in England,
And loved her well, indeed;
But could not worship as we chose,
But as the King decreed.

SECOND PILGRIM

And so we sailed to Holland,
To live among the Dutch;
They were very good to us,
We loved them very much.

(Enter *Dutch.* They shake hands with *Pilgrims* among whom they then mingle.)

THIRD PILGRIM

But our children were forgetting how
To speak our mother tongue;
It was only natural,
They were very young.

FOURTH PILGRIM

So back we sailed to England
But could not happy be;
To worship as we felt was right
We were not free.

(*Dutch* step to rear of stage.)

FIFTH PILGRIM

So in the *Mayflower* we set forth,
And sailed across the sea;
We landed in America,
In search of liberty.

SIXTH PILGRIM

Our Indian neighbors were good friends
Both kind and true;
They brought us corn and taught us how
To plant it, too.

(*Indians* run in, stooping in Indian fashion and giving short, sharp cries as they run. They take places among the *Pilgrims*.)

SEVENTH PILGRIM

We suffered terribly at first
In this new land;
Half our number perished, but we were
A brave little band.

EIGHTH PILGRIM

At last a ship from England
Brought food for all;
Our harvest, too, was bountiful
That happy fall.

NINTH PILGRIM

To return thanks to our Heavenly Father
For His loving care,
We planned a feast and asked
Our Indian friends to share.

TENTH PILGRIM

And so both white and red men met
To feast and to pray;
And thus we held in our new home
The first Thanksgiving Day.

(*Dutch* march off to music. *Indians* run off stooping and whooping. *Pilgrims* march off to slow music.)

CHRISTMAS

Santa Claus, Christmas Cheer, Mercury, Group of Fairies, Group of Elves, Group of Nymphs, Group of Goblins and *Groups of Brownies* are the characters:

The groups may be large or small to include any number of children.

COSTUMES:

Santa Claus wears a long red coat and pointed cap trimmed with white wadding. He wears a Santa Claus mask and carries an empty cloth bag.

Christmas Cheer wears a white dress trimmed with gold tinsel and a gold paper crown. She carries a small Christmas tree with gold star at top and trimmed with tinsel.

Mercury wears white or light green suit. His cap is made of light green paper trimmed at each side with small paper wing. He wears wings of same color tied to back of ankles.

Elves wear green suits and green pointed caps.

Fairies wear white dresses trimmed with silver tinsel and silver paper crowns. They carry silver paper stars on sticks covered with silver paper.

Nymphs wear white dresses and headbands of evergreen sprigs trimmed with tinsel. They carry small evergreen branches.

NOTE: If these costumes are too elaborate, each group may wear paper caps without the special suits.

Curtain rises showing *Santa Claus* and *Christmas Cheer* giving last touches to large Christmas tree.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Now all our work is done,
There's a toy for every one.

(Enter) MERCURY

Tonight I've traveled without pause,
To overtake you, Santa Claus.

(Hands letter to *Santa.*)

SANTA CLAUS (Opens and reads)

Dear Santa: Please bring me a dolly new,
I've never had a doll, from Sue.

(*Santa Claus* looks in pack, then looks up puzzled.)

Not a toy left in my pack,
I've nothing but an empty sack.

MERCURY

Dolls are sold out, from shore to shore,
There's not one left in any store.

SANTA CLAUS

Whatever shall I do?
I must have a doll for Sue.

MERCURY

Fairies, come from Fairyland,
Bring with you an elfin band.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Brownies, leave your home below,
You can help us now, I know.

MERCURY

Nymphs, come from your pleasant wood,
Here's a chance to do much good.

SANTA CLAUS

Little goblins, one and all,
Answer now to Santa's call.

(Enter *Fairies, Elves, Nymphs, Brownies* and *Goblins.*)

SANTA CLAUS

Little Story Book People, dear,
Follow now good Christmas Cheer,
You must work with all your might,
To make a doll this very night.

ELVES, FAIRIES, BROWNIES, NYMPHS and GOBLINS (together)

We will do our very best.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Wait here, Santa Claus, and rest.

(Exeunt all but *Santa.* Soon return with a large, beautiful doll.)

SANTA CLAUS (Taking doll)

Such a lovely doll for Sue,
Little Story Book People, I thank you.
(Puts doll in pack.)
Now I'll hurry fast away,
To little Sue's e'er peep of day.

CURTAIN